

WORSHIP ILLUSTRATION

Lesson 28, Unit 6

The Bible Barn

Letters About Weakness

Running time: Approximately 5 minutes

New Testament Letters:

2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18;

2 Corinthians 12:7-10;

Jude 1:24-25

Setting: This series (Units 5 & 6) is set in a barn area of an outdoor camp. The set is designed to look like the interior of a barn. There's a door to enter, a fireplace with stuffed animal heads over the mantle, and a ramp (or steps) to invite kids up to participate in object lessons. There is a mailbag or box that sits on a high shelf, it can have a trap door or simply tip over to dump a pile of letters and a Bible into counselor's hands. There are different openings, trapdoors and windows that the animal of the day can fall out of. For extra fun, build windows where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters:

Ranger Reggie is the Head Bible Counselor at Camp Venture. He is a former explorer and animal seeker, like the "Crocodile Hunter". (For added humor, pronounce all "R"s and "L"s as a "W".) Safari Sam is the assistant Bible teacher and Ranger Reggie's longtime friend. Like Reggie, he loves animals, children, and the Bible. (For added humor, pronounce all "S"s with a "Th" sound.) Wild William recites Camp Critter Clue either via video or from an offstage mic. (Option: the Camp Critter Clue can be found on a slip of paper or appear on a slide and read by volunteer or any character.) Orville is a klutzy carrier pigeon (silent toy bird attached to a zip line) that delivers messages.

Creature Feature Camp Critter: Kitten

Note: Each episode introduces a different creature. These may be ten separate puppets, stuffed animals, or one basic sock puppet to represent the 10 following creatures: Love Birds (Lesson 22), Meerkat (Lesson 23), Serpent (Lesson 24), Little Lamb (Lesson 25), Dove (Lesson 26), Race Horse (Lesson 27), Kitten (Lesson 28), Gorilla (Lesson 29), Elephant (Lesson 30), Lion (Lesson 31)

Plot: Ranger Reggie is in a wheelchair. Safari Sam worries about him being too weak. Paul's letters tell us that when we are weak, God is strong! We learn that God's strength shows in our weakness.

Costumes: Safari hats, shorts, boots, vests, camp t-shirts.

Props: Clip board, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, wheelchair, bandages, toy kitten.

Sound effects: (SFX)

1. Intro/outro music suggestions:
"Hoe-down Throw down" by Miley Cyrus.
2. Moo SFX
3. "I Like to Move It, Move It" from Madagascar
4. "Mail Song" from Blues Clues
5. Cat yowling and slashing

Visual effects: (VFX)

Video Intro is available at

www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

1. Video Intro: Video featuring Reggie exploring and teaching Bible lessons.
2. Creature Feature slide
3. Wild William's Camp Critter Clue video
4. Slide of Camp Critter Clue:
"Though we are weak,
God can't be beat."
5. Slide of Camper's Code:
I will love God with all my heart.
I will love my neighbor as myself.
I will be a light wherever I go!

THE BIBLE BARN: Lesson 28
Letters About Weakness
 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18;
 2 Corinthians 12:7-10;
 Jude 1:24-25

(VFX: short video intro)

Sam (pushes wheelchair carrying Ranger Reggie) **Hi, campers! Welcome back to the Bible Barn!** (SFX: Moo) **Ranger Reggie is still feeling sore from being attacked by that race horse.**

Reggie (in wheelchair wrapped in bandages) **I'm fine, Safari Sam.**

Sam
You need to take it slow, Ranger Reggie.

Reggie
I know, I know. Rest, relax and recuperate. But really, I feel okay.

Sam
Still, I worry about you. You're in a weakened condition.

Reggie
Thanks for caring, my friend. But, I think I'll be all right.

Sam
Well, let's see what the Bible has to say about that! It's Mail Time! (SFX: "Mail Song" from Blues Clues plays when the mail box is opened.) **Here's Paul's second letter to the Corinthians!** **"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts... but we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. What does that mean?**

Reggie
It means that we are weak, like a breakable clay jar, but God put His light in our hearts so everyone would see that God is the one with the power, not us.

Sam
God is showing His power through us! That's good news!

Reggie
Right! Let me see that Bible and I'll show you some more good news! (Sam hands Bible to Reggie) **"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."**

Sam
So, no matter how weak we feel on the outside...

Reggie
He is making us stronger on the inside!

Sam
So, our faith in God makes us strong even if we get smacked in the head by wild horses?

Reggie
Did you have to bring that up?

Sam
Wow, I never realized weakness can be a good thing.

Reggie
It's not that anybody wishes to be weak, but there are times in all of our lives when we find out that we just can't do everything on our own.

Sam

And it's those times when we learn to lean on Jesus and let His light shine through us.

Reggie

Absolutely!

Sam

I'll bet today's Creature Feature is a symbol of weakness!

Reggie

There's only one way find out! It's time for our Creature Feature! (SFX: "I Like to Move It, Move It") (VFX: slide reading: Creature Feature) (Sam dances Reggie around in the wheelchair)

Sam

Wild William, who is today's featured creature?

Wild William (VFX: Wild William)

"Cute and cuddly, soft as silk, fill her saucer up with milk." (VFX: clue slide)

Reggie

What do you think it is, kids? (Children respond.) **I think you're right! I think it is a kitten!** (Offstage hand pokes through curtain holding kitten.)

Sam (takes kitten) **Ranger Reggie, after last week's incident, I don't think you should be around any dangerous critters!**

Reggie

Oh Sam, please! There's nothing weaker than a tiny little kitten! Bring her here! (Sam gives him kitten)

Sam

Look at that, she likes you!

Reggie

Of course she does! You're just a pretty little kitty, aren't you? (SFX: Cat yowling and slashing) **Woah! Help! Get her off my face!** (falls out of chair)

Sam (tosses kitten offstage)

Scat, cat! Ranger Reggie! I knew you were too weak to handle her!

Reggie

That cat is part mountain lion!

Sam

Should I get the first aid kit?

Reggie

It's just a scratch...or ten. Don't worry. God is stronger than my weakness.

Sam

Who told you that?

Reggie

Orville. Hey kids, why don't we call him? Are you ready?

Reggie, Sam, Children, Counselors

"Hey Orville, come on down!" (Orville slides down and crashes through window; egg drops down into fireplace.)

Sam (picks up egg)

It's an egg with a letter inside!

Reggie

Open it and read it to us.

Sam

"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me...For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Sam

So, when your body is weak, that's when God's power shows the most!

Reggie

Amen, brother! God's power is something we can really brag about! It's good to remember that in our weakness, His light in us shines really bright. That reminds me of our Camper's Code? On your feet, Campers! Raise your right hand and recite this with me!

All

**I will love God with all my heart.
I will love my neighbor as myself.
I will be a light wherever I go!**

(VFX: I will love God with all my heart, I will love my neighbor as myself, I will be a light wherever I go!)

Sam

Should we head over to the flagpole and sing our Camp Critter song?

(SFX: outro)

Reggie

If you give me a hand, I think I can make it! (Teach and sing verse 7 of Critter Kingdom Song)

ALL

(Sing Critter Kingdom Song verse 7)

**I spied a kitten overhead;
Here is what that kitten said,
(clap 3 times) "Though we are weak,
(clap 3 times) ...God can't be beat."**

**I saw a kitten, who followed a race horse, who followed the dove, who followed a little lamb, who followed a serpent, who followed a meerkat, who followed a lovebird and the lovebird hollered,
"Yippee-kigh-yay!"
...at Camp Venture today!**

(VFX: lyric slide or poster cue cards:

I spied a kitten overhead;
Here is what that kitten said,
(3 claps) Though we are weak,
(3 claps) God can't be beat.
I saw a kitten,
who followed a race horse,
who followed the dove,
who followed a little lamb,
who followed a serpent,
who followed a meerkat,
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